

Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District



WINTER 2006-2007

Dear 9th District Residents,

I am pleased to send you best wishes for the holiday season and a peaceful 2007 as we begin what I'm sure will be another action-packed year in city government.

Public safety, crime and taxes are again among the major challenges facing the city during the new year. Commercial, business and residential developments continue to bring positive news to the 9th District, and I will continue to emphasize business expansion and economic growth as I represent you on the Common Council.

The 2007 city budget provided us with some difficult choices, and there are more details elsewhere in this newsletter on the final outcome. But I assure you that I will continue to do all I can to efficiently and effectively provide the services you want without reaching any further into taxpayers' wallets.

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to bring you news and information about the 9th District and the City of Milwaukee, including an update on the Northwest Side Comprehensive Plan, the many ways the city is making it more convenient for you to contact city officials and request services, some suggestions on making our drinking water safer by the safe disposal of medicines, and helpful winter tips.

I again want to thank everyone in the 9th District who continues to volunteer their time and talents to improving our neighborhoods and our quality of life. And I encourage you to become involved in the Block Watch program.

I will continue to meet with constituents whenever possible and urge you to share your concerns with me. You can contact me at 286-2868 or e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns about city services or how to improve our neighborhoods.

Have an enjoyable winter season.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Puente, Alderman
9th District



Final City Tax Rate Lowest In 50 Years

Council Beats State-Imposed Tax "Freeze"

The Milwaukee Common Council considered a wide array of budget amendments to the proposal sent to it by the mayor. After many hours of deliberation, aldermen voted 14-1 to adopt a 2007 city budget that requires a tax rate of \$7.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value – a level not seen since 1956.

"Our goal was to hold the line on taxes and spending while maintaining the important and necessary city services that our constituents want to maintain our quality of life," said Ald. Puente, adding that the budget shows residents that the council is doing what it can to keep a reasonable level of city services while keeping taxes to a minimum. The council has now adopted city budgets with flat or reduced tax rates in 17 of the last 18 years.

The new city tax levy, with the lowest percentage tax levy increase of any of the taxing bodies that are included on city property tax bills, means the owner of a \$100,000 home would see a \$76 decrease in the **city** portion of the tax bill, from \$875 to \$799. The budget was more than \$107,000 under the state-imposed property tax "freeze."

Some highlights of the budget:

- Restored firefighting staffing for three ladder companies.
- Added 40 police officers
- Created a \$2.5 million fund to develop affordable housing
- Rejected effort to impose \$20 fee for lost/stolen garbage carts
- Added investigators to the Fire & Police Commission to look into allegations of police misconduct.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Vice Chair

Public Safety Committee

Member

Licenses Committee

Public Works Committee

Housing Authority Board

Working Together to Prevent Crime

Ald. Puente would like to see as many 9th District residents as possible get to know their neighborhood and their neighbors, and become proactive in improving the quality of life. "We cannot be afraid to get involved, it is the only way to maintain and improve our neighborhoods," said Ald. Puente. One way to do that is to join a Block Watch. "The community crime prevention program works," said Ald. Puente, "and it can make a difference."

Residents can play an important role as they look out for and help their neighbors and report any suspicious occurrences, vehicles or people to police. To become involved in a **Block Watch** you can contact the alderman's office at **286-2868** for information or call the community liaison officer for the **4th Police District** at **935-7248**. If you'd like Ald. Puente to attend a Block Watch meeting, please call his office.

Anti-Violence Campaign Planned

Public safety in the City of Milwaukee is among the highest priorities of Ald. Puente, a former police captain, and he joined with a number of his colleagues to co-sponsor a resolution to develop an anti-violence campaign in the city.

"In two years of experience with the Boston, Massachusetts' anti-violence plan known as '**Operation Ceasefire**,' that city realized a 71% decrease in homicides by persons ages 24 and under and a 70% reduction in gun assaults for all ages," said Ald. Puente. "Milwaukee has the leadership and resources to implement an anti-violence plan that can help secure and enhance our quality of life," he added.

Mayor Tom Barrett and Police Chief Nannette Hegerty have been asked to submit the anti-violence campaign to the Common Council early in 2007.

Shovel Your Sidewalk. It's The Law ❄️

Remember that residential and commercial property owners and occupants are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice **within 24 hours after a storm**. If violations are reported, a 24-hour notice is issued. If the sidewalks still are not cleared, a sanitation crew will clear a path and put the charge on the property tax bill.

Note: the city does not plow alleys.

If you have elderly or disabled neighbors who need help with snow shoveling – please help them out when you can.

And make our city safer by shoveling out the fire hydrants near your home. Ald. Puente says "adopting" a fire hydrant will ensure maximum visibility for firefighters in the event of an emergency.



Useful Winter Tips ❄️

Parked and abandoned cars are among the biggest problems faced by city crews when they plow our city streets. And Ald. Puente wants to remind you that winter parking restrictions are in effect until March 1st, and motorists should look for signs describing the parking restrictions along streets that are affected by winter rules. These possible restrictions could include:

- **Specific Side Parking** - No parking on one or both sides of the street Dec. 1 - March 1. No parking on one or both sides of a street during a particular winter month.
- **4" Rule** - Certain residential streets are posted "No Parking When 4" of Snow or More." No parking is allowed on the side of the street where the sign is posted until snow has been removed.
- **Route Towaway Zone** - No parking is allowed during declared snow emergencies on highways marked with "Snow Route Towaway Zone" signs.
- **Night Parking During Snow Emergency** - If a snow emergency has been declared, night parking regulations are in effect from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on all city streets regardless of the winter parking regulation.
- **Milwaukee Public Schools** make some playgrounds and parking lots available for overnight parking during declared snow emergencies and clean-up periods. Call the DPW Information Center at 286-8282 for the location of a playground nearest your home.

Some winter parking regulations are not posted. If you are unsure about regulations in your area, and want information on a particular street, call the DPW Parking Enforcement Section at **286-8350**. Streets are also listed on the Department of Public Works section of the city web site, **www.milwaukee.gov** under parking services.



As part of his ongoing effort to be proactive in keeping 9th District residents informed about city government and their neighborhoods, Ald. Puente sponsored a well attended town hall meeting at Alexian Village in October. Mayor Tom Barrett and representatives of a number of city departments were on hand to answer questions.





Holiday Tree Disposal

Garbage collection crews will pick up the tree if it is placed where the garbage is collected. **If your collection is in an alley, trees must be placed at the alley line for collection, not on the street.** Only residents whose garbage is collected from the street may place their tree at the curb to be picked up.

Trees may also be taken to the city's two Self-Help Centers, 6660 N. Industrial Rd. and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave., where they may be composted for use by city forestry crews.

Winter hours are in effect until March 31st at the Self Help Centers, Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. No Sunday hours.

Police Step Up Curfew Enforcement

When young people are out on the streets late at night they can get in trouble or become victims of crime. Ald. Puente wants to remind parents that in order to cut down on the amount of violence involving Milwaukee youth, police are giving extra attention to enforcing the city's curfew.

By city law, through Memorial Day, children under the age of 17 are not allowed on the streets from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The teens or their parents can be given a ticket for violating the curfew. The fine is \$74 for a juvenile and \$175 for an adult.

Northwest Side Comprehensive Area Plan Workshops

Create a vision for public and private investment in your community!

The City of Milwaukee, in partnership with the local community, has been preparing a comprehensive plan for the Northwest side.

The purpose of the **Northwest Side Area Comprehensive Plan** is to evaluate the assets and opportunities of the area in order to guide new development that builds upon its resources. The plan will do so in a context that responds to the area's history, natural areas, and cultural resources, encompassing community planning work that has previously been done as well as planning efforts currently underway.

For the last several months the city has gathered background information through research, community surveys, stakeholder interviews, and focus groups. Now is the time to take what has been learned and use it to envision the future.

You are invited to participate in one of three interactive workshops. During the workshop city officials will review all of the information gathered and begin to develop recommendations and identify catalytic projects.

The meeting dates, times and locations are:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, 9a.m. - 1p.m.**
Alexian Village, 9301 N. 76th St.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, 2p.m. - 6p.m.**
Alexian Village, 9301 N. 76th St.
- **Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, 9a.m. - 1p.m.**
Goodwill Industries, 6055 N. 91st St.

Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007 by calling Maria Pandazi at 414-286-5836. Visit our website (www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/northwest) for more information about the workshops, including specific room locations and directions.

Dispose Of Hazardous Wastes Properly

You don't have to wait until spring cleaning to get rid of harmful chemicals and other hazardous materials around the house and garage. Ald. Puente wants to remind residents that the city and **Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District** have teamed up to open another convenient permanent facility for Milwaukee County residents.

The new permanent drop off site is at the **City of Milwaukee Self Help Station**, 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents might find it more convenient to take advantage of the permanent collection facility on the northwest side at W124 N9451 Boundary Rd, Menomonee Falls that is free for Milwaukee residents. It is open Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

And don't flush your prescriptions - What do you do with all the unused or expired medicines that pile up in your home? For decades we were told to flush them. However, you should **never** flush or pour unused medicine down the drain. From aspirin to controlled substances, medicine is showing up in our waterways and there's growing concern about all the impacts the various drugs are having on the environment. "Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove medicine from wastewater, and pouring drugs down the drain can send harmful chemicals on a direct path to Lake Michigan," said Ald. Puente.

MMSD is planning another special **Medicine Collection Day** for late spring or early summer. Check their web site at www.mmsd.com for updates. During the first Medicine Collection Day last September the district collected 14 thirty-gallon drums of non-controlled substances and over 10,000 individual pills of controlled substances.

What if I can't make it to the collection site? - Putting unused or expired medications in the garbage isn't ideal either. Kids, pets and animals can still get into them or they could be stolen. Also, landfills can leak into the groundwater. If you're going to put medicine in the garbage, seal the original child-proof container with tape, or crush the pills and put them into a container with old coffee grounds or something that kids would never eat.



Partnering For Growth

The revitalization of the northwest side and the 9th District has gotten a big boost from the newly formed Granville-Brown Deer Chamber of Commerce, which now has about 80 members. Its mission is to lead the effort to improve the quality of life and general prosperity of residents, businesses and employees of the historic Granville and Village of Brown Deer neighborhoods.



Ald. Puente welcomes the new chamber and invites its members to get involved and stay involved. "Joining the chamber provides the business and professional community in the area the opportunity to network with others and help bring more economic benefits to these historic neighborhoods," said Ald. Puente.

A networking event is being planned for **Jan. 18** and an annual meeting in the spring. For more information on joining the Granville-Brown Deer Chamber of Commerce contact Cherie Burbach, chamber coordinator, at 357-5493, or check their web site at **www.granvillebrowndeerchamber.org**

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Easy Access to City Information Intensifies

One Number Is All You Need

286-CITY. That's the only number you know need to contact 21 city departments for answers to questions or concerns on 100s of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups.

The City of Milwaukee receives millions of calls annually for services and information, and finding the right number for city services can be difficult and sometimes overwhelming for residents. The new one-stop number makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request.

Residents will still call 911 for emergencies but can use the new number for any other calls. The system is in both English and Spanish. Of course you can always call Ald. Puente's office at 286-2868. And the **2005-2006 Call For Action booklet**, arranged alphabetically by specific problems and topics is still available. Contact the alderman's office for a copy. You can also go to **www.milwaukee.gov/callforaction** to view an online version.

Electronic Communication Also Available

If you have a computer and Internet access the city also offers electronic tools to request services or information. E-Notify and E-Service are efficient ways for residents to learn about programs and services while reducing staff time, paper and postage costs.

E-Service is an online request form that allows citizens to request a service without knowing which city department would provide that service. The request is sent automatically to the appropriate department. You can even check the status of your request.

E-Notify is an easy to use method to receive such information as city news, police crime bulletins by neighborhood, meeting and bid notices and many other topics. Selections made by the individual citizen are sent directly to subscriber's e-mail accounts. Both electronic communication tools are available on the city web site at **www.city.milwaukee.gov**

A Message From The Chief Of Police

In its continuing effort to enhance communication with the citizens of Milwaukee, the police department has taken several steps to provide information about the organization and the services its officers provide. These include a web site, **www.milwaukee.gov/police** and a monthly message from Chief Nannette Hegerty. Ald. Puente invites you to check out this very informative web site.